

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK STOCKS
Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

Period Covered: October 1, 1981 to December 31, 1981

by
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Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook Stocks

ABSTRACT :

A total of 2,500,000 eyed spring chinook eggs were placed in Indian Creek Incubation Channel during October of 1981. For the third year in a row, the eggs were transported from the Cowlitz Hatchery in western Washington. Indian Creek was again the only incubation channel utilized for chinook eggs.

REPORT OF PROGRESS ;

For the third successive year, returns of adult spring chinook to Rapid River Hatchery were insufficient to provide any excess chinook eggs for planting in the Indian Creek channel. Therefore, eggs were again obtained from the Cowlitz Hatchery in western Washington.

On 27 October, we utilized a one ton flatbed truck to pick up 2.5 million eyed chinook eggs at the Cowlitz Hatchery. All eggs were placed in wet burlap sacks in wire baskets and iced down during transport. On 28 October, with the much appreciated assistance of several West Fork Ranger District personnel and Fish and Game Department personnel, the eggs were placed in the gravel of the Indian Creek incubation channel. After the eggs were planted, wire mesh poultry netting was placed over the channel bottom and weighted with rocks to prevent depredation on the eggs.

A channel tender was again hired to maintain flows through the channel during the winter and plant out emergent fry during the spring.

On 17 November, I traveled to Indian Creek to check on the channel. All was well. Since the channel tender, who has direct radio contact with West Fork Ranger Station this year, reported that all was going well, I did not travel in to check on the channel during December. Snow pack is significantly greater than normal this year, with three feet of snow on the ground in areas where there has been almost none in the past two years. If snow continues to accumulate at this rate throughout the winter, the runoff this spring could be spectacular!

Submitted by :

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